A RESOLUTION

2002-41-41

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT FOR THE AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO CORRIDOR.

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WHEREAS, in 1997, the Texas Legislature authorized the formation of an Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District ("District") for the Austin-San Antonio corridor through the enactment of Senate Bill 657 in order to facilitate the creation of a regional passenger rail system that would help reduce congestion, reduce traffic fatalities, improve mobility, promote economic development and accelerate commerce along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion along IH-35 between San Antonio and Austin continues to worsen and increased population growth and NAFTA truck traffic will create an anticipated demand for up to 18 lanes of north/south interstate capacity in this region by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, recently Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation began work on the reauthorization of TEA-21 funding and the proposed District would provide a formal mechanism to plan, develop and seek this funding for a comprehensive regional transit system; and

WHEREAS, construction is set to begin soon on State Highway 130 and the creation of the proposed District would allow planning for the addition of a freight rail element to the SH 130 corridor and would be helpful in coordinating rail passenger and rail freight service along this corridor; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 657 requires a vote by the cities of Austin and San Antonio, in addition to the counties of Travis and Bexar, to create the District and permits other cities and counties to vote by resolution to join the District; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner's Court of Bexar County approved a resolution in support of the creation of District on October 9, 2002, the City of Austin also passed such a resolution, and Hays and Williamson Counties have passed resolutions indicating that both entities would join the District once it is formed; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of San Antonio finds that it is in the best interest of the City to support the creation of the District; **NOW THEREFORE**:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. City Council hereby supports the creation of an Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District for the Austin-San Antonio corridor.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect on the tenth (10th) day after the date of passage hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of November 2002.

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ATTEST: John L. Lederme
City Clerk

EDWARD D. GARZA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City/Attorney